DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 379 068 PS 022 849

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TITLE Integrating Services for Children and Families: Understanding the Past To Shape the Future.
REPORT NO ISBN-0-300-05871-3
PUB DATE 93
NOTE 226p.
AVAILABLE FROM Yale University Press, P.O. Box 209040, New Haven, CT 06520-9040 ($25).
PUB TYPE Reports - Descriptive (141) -- Viewpoints (Opinion/Position Papers, Essays, etc.) (120) -- Books (010)

EDRS PRICE Document Not Available from EDRS.
DESCRIPTORS Change Strategies; Children; Family (Sociological Unit); *Family Programs; *Integrated Services; Political Influences; *Program Effectiveness; *Program Improvement; *Public Policy; Social Influences; *Social Services
IDENTIFIERS Access to Services; Family Policy; Family Support; Historical Background; *Reform Efforts

ABSTRACT

This book explores why past efforts to reform the human services system have had marginal impact in improving the quality of life for children and families, and offers new directions for future social service reform. Chapter 1 examines the sociopolitical antecedents of service integration that have emerged from the uniquely democratic experience of the United States. Chapters 2 and 3 analyze formal attempts at service integration and stress the cacophony of broad-based multidisciplinary efforts of the early 1970s, with special emphasis on research and development and on policy initiatives. Chapter 4 addresses the comparatively recent and more circumscribed categorical approaches to service integration. Chapter 5 examines evolving and diverse definitions of service integration. Chapter 6 explicates differing theoretical approaches--structuralist, humanistic, and systemic--that have undergirded and given rise to different definitions, conceptualizations, and approaches to service integration. Chapter 7 delineates action frameworks or typologies that codify approaches to service integration. Chapter 8 presents the barriers to and incentives for implementation, and chapter 9 discusses specific activities that compose the repertoire of service integration strategies. The book concludes with a discussion of the implications of this analysis in chapter 10 and recommendations for future work on service integration in chapter 11. Contains over 200 references. (TJQ)

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